

We claim:

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1. A computer implemented method, comprising:

establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service;
receiving a purchase request for the predefined service from a buyer;
assigning the purchase request to a service provider in the database; and
returning a deliverable from the service provider to the buyer.

2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service includes:

receiving from a service provider a number of units of service that the service provider can provide in a predetermined time period.

3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service includes:

determining a number of units of service that the service provider is currently working on.

4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service includes:

associating each service provider with a predefined service.

5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein establishing a database of service providers for providing a predefined service includes:

adding a service provider to the database if the reputation of the service provider exceeds a predetermined threshold.

1 6. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein establishing a database of service
2 providers for providing a predefined service includes:

3 adding a service provider to the database if the reputation of the service provider
4 exceeds a predetermined threshold, in accordance with ratings of that service
5 provider.

1 7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 receiving the number of deliverables requested.

1 8. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 assuming one deliverable is requested.

1 9. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 receiving a payment from the buyer.

1 10. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 receiving a payment from the buyer prior to assigning the predefined service to a
4 service provider.

1 11. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 uploading a file required to complete the predefined service.

1 12. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 receiving a reputation threshold from a buyer used to determine potential service
4 providers.

1 13. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving a purchase request for the
2 predefined service from a buyer includes:

3 receiving special instructions from the buyer relating to the requested predefined
4 service.

1 14. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein assigning the purchase request to a
2 service provider in the database includes:

3 selecting a next service provider from an ordered queue of service providers.

1 15. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein assigning the purchase request to a
2 service provider in the database includes:

3 sending a request for the requested predetermine service to a service provider.

1 16. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein assigning the purchase request to a
2 service provider in the database includes:

3 sending a request for the requested predetermine service to a service provider whose
4 reputation is above a reputation threshold entered by the buyer.

1 17. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein returning a deliverable from the
2 service provider to the buyer includes:

3 receiving the deliverable from the service provider and returning the deliverable to the
4 requesting buyer.

1 18. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein returning a deliverable from the
2 service provider to the buyer includes:

3 adjusting a number of projects that the service provider is working on to reflect that the
4 service has been delivered to the buyer.

1 19. In a computer system, an apparatus used by a buyer for purchasing predefined services over
2 a network, comprising:

3 a web server for connecting to the network;

4 a storefront service module connected to the web server for obtaining information for
5 completing a service request from the buyer, sending the information to one of
6 a set of service providers, receiving a deliverable from the service provider,
7 and sending the deliverable to the buyer; and
8 a database connected to the storefront service module for storing availability
9 information for the set of service providers.
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